

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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USSALTTWO

E.O.11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: NATO, PARM
SUBJECT: UK PROPOSALS ON ARMS CONTROL DISCUSSIONS IN
NATO AND THEATRE SYSTEMS

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REFS: (A) LONDON 10540 (DTG 051435Z JUL 78),
(B) STATE 167307 (DTG 302336Z JUN 78), BOTH REFS NOTAL

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1. SUMMARY: WE EXPECT TO BE APPROACHED BY UK PERMREP KILICK
NEXT WEEK REGARDING THE SPECIFIC PROPOSALS THE UK INTENDS
TO CIRCULATE ON ARMS CONTROL DISCUSSIONS AT NATO. THIS
MESSAGE PROVIDES BACKGROUND ON THE STEPS THE UK MAY TAKE
HERE AS IT PUTS FORWARD ITS PROPOSALS AND REQUESTS PROMPT
WASHINGTON GUIDANCE. KILICK COULD CALL ON US AS EARLY AS
JULY 10. END SUMMARY.

2. AS OF JULY 6 THE UK DELEGATION HAD NOT BEEN INSTRUCTED
TO INTRODUCE THE SPECIFIC UK SUGGESTIONS REGARDING ENHANCED
ARMS CONTROL CONSULTATIONS AT NATO. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO
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UK DELEGATION OFFICERS (PLEASE PROTECT--THEY ARE SKITTISH .
ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF BEING OUT OF STEP WITH LONDON),
THE DELEGATION EXPECTS TO BE INSTRUCTED TO BEGIN THE PROCESS
WITHIN THE NEXT TEN DAYS.

2. FOR ITS PART, THE UK DELEGATION HOPES TO PROCEED AT A
REASONABLE AND MEASURED PACE. THE PROCESS WOULD INCLUDE:

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--A BILATERAL APPROACH BY UK PERMREP KILLICK TO SYG LUNS, THE US AND FRG PERMREPS AND "PERHAPS OTHERS";

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--IF NO OVERRIDING OBJECTIONS ARE REGISTERED, THE UK WOULD CIRCULATE ITS PROPOSALS TO ALL DELEGATIONS BY LETTER. (AT THE JULY 5 NAC, KILLICK SAID THE UK WOULD BE CIRCULATING ITS PROPOSALS "AT SOME POINT").

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--THE UK WOULD SUGGEST A NAC DISCUSSION OF ITS PROPOSALS ONCE CAPITALS HAVE HAD TIME TO CONSIDER THEM. IDEALLY, SUCH DISCUSSION WOULD BE PRIOR TO THE AUGUST BREAK, BUT THE UK DELEGATION RECOGNIZED THAT THE COUNCIL MAY NOT BE IN A POSITION TO CONSIDER THE ISSUE BEFORE SEPTEMBER.

3. UK DELEGATION OFFICER HAS RECONFIRMED WILBERFORCE'S COMMENT TO EMBASSY LONDON THAT THE UK PROPOSALS WOULD INCLUDE NO MENTION OF CONSULTATIVE MECHANISMS FOR SALT AND THEATRE SYSTEMS. THE UK CONSIDERS GREATER USE OF THE SENIOR POLITICAL COMMITTEE (SPC) TO BE APPROPRIATE FOR DISCUSSION OF ARMS CONTROL TOPICS GIVEN THE GOOD RELATIONSHIP THE SPC HAS DEVELOPED WITH THE MILITARY SIDE OF THE HOUSE DURING THE MBFR PROCESS. TO ITS MIND, THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE ITSELF IS LESS ATTRACTIVE BECAUSE OF THE EXTRAORDINARY DIVERSITY OF THE TOPICS WITH WHICH IT IS SEIZED.

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4. ACTION: WE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED TO SEE THE UK DELEGATION HAVE TO ACCELERATE THE PACE OF CONSULTATIONS ON THIS ISSUE ONCE LONDON GUIDANCE IS IN HAND. WHEN KILLICK APPROACHES US, WE WILL PLAN TO DRAW ON THE LEDOGAR-GOMPERT-REEVE DISCUSSION (REF B) AND ALSO TO URGE KILLICK TO SHARE A DRAFT OF THE UK PAPER SO WE MIGHT SEEK WASHINGTON REACTION BEFORE IT IS CIRCULATED AT NATO. WE ASSUME FROM REF B THAT WASHINGTON IS INCLINED TO SUPPORT THE UK PROPOSALS AS LONG AS THEY DO NOT INVOLVE THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW CONSULTATIVE MECHANISMS IN NATO, ARE LIMITED IN ESSENCE TO "PRESENTATIONAL" CHANGES, AND DO NOT MAKE SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO SALT AND THEATRE NUCLEAR SYSTEMS. WE WOULD APPRECIATE CONFIRMATION AND ANY FURTHER GUIDANCE WASHINGTON MAY CARE TO PROVIDE PRIOR TO AN APPROACH BY KILLICK. THIS COULD COME EARLY IN THE WEEK OF JULY 10. BENNETT

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